

TRANSMITTAL # 6

MEMORANDUM

March 26, 2001

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Roger B. Madsen, Director

SUBJECT: 2002 Legislative Update

ACTION REQUESTED: None. Information only.

BACKGROUND:

Following is a summary of legislation impacting workforce development issues compiled as of March 8, 2002.

Department of Labor Legislation:

S1289 - FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR LICENSING

Provides for the licensing of farm labor contractors by the Department of Labor. Addresses the concern of farm workers regarding the nonpayment of wages owed and the concern of farmers that they are liable for unpaid farm worker wages after they have already paid the farm labor contractor for those wages. The legislation would require all persons performing farm labor contractor activities on behalf of migrant and seasonal farm workers in Idaho to 1) be licensed by the State and pay an annual licensing fee, 2) post a surety bond to cover unpaid wages, 3) carry auto insurance for all vehicles used in the farm labor contracting business, 4) carry workers' compensation coverage for all employees, and 5) provide all employees at the time of hiring full disclosure of the conditions of employment.

Passed Senate 33-0-2; Passed House 55-10-5

Currently before Governor for signature

S1290 - INDIAN TRIBES - UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Adds to existing law to extend Unemployment Insurance coverage to employees of Indian tribes.

Passed Senate 32-0-3; Passed House 61-0-9

Governor signed Session Law Chapter 45 Effective: 02/26/02

**S1311 - APPROPRIATIONS (REED ACT AUTHORIZATION) –
LABOR DEPARTMENT**

Appropriating \$7,000,000 or a lesser amount as may become available from the funds made available to the Department pursuant to Section 903 of the federal Social Security Act, as amended (Reed Act), for the payment of expenses incurred for the administration of the UI and ES programs.

Passed Senate - 33-0-2; Passed House 66-0-4

Governor signed Session Law Chapter 11 Effective: 07/01/02

S1465 - APPROPRIATIONS - LABOR DEPARTMENT

Appropriates \$556,600 to the Department of Labor, Wage & Hour Unit, for FY 2003; and limits the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to 8.

Passed Senate 34-1-0; Passed House 67-0-3

Currently before Governor for signature

H0460 - APPROPRIATIONS – IRP TRANSFER TO COMMERCE DEPT.

Reduces appropriation to the Department of Labor for the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) and reduces the FTE positions by one; appropriates \$165,400 to the Department of Commerce for IRP and adds one FTE.

Passed House 67-0-3; Passed Senate 32-0-3

Governor signed Session Law Chapter 23 Effective: 02/12/02

Other Legislation of Interest:

HJM015 - URGING TIMELY RESPONSE TO NAFTA-TAA PETITIONS

Urging the U.S. Congress to require the U.S. Department of Labor to strictly comply with all TAA-NAFTA petition investigations and to ensure that determinations are made within the required notification period.

Passed House with unanimous voice vote; Passed Senate with unanimous voice vote.

Contact: Dwight Johnson (208) 332-3570, ext. 3209